



St John's Weekly News 17th January 2021

From Alice Eka

"You will see greater things than these."

To be able to see greater things, Nathanael had to move from the fig tree where he had been sitting and follow Jesus.

The call to 'follow'; to 'come and see' comes at different stages in each one's life. Like Samuel, one must be able to hear the voice and respond 'speak for your servant is listening'. The lockdown and covid-19 pandemic has put a strain on our communities, on our families and our well-being. Some people who are finding it hard to make ends meet may not hear the voice; like Samuel they may not recognise the voice at first. God does not give up on us. We are invited to come just as we are.

GOSPEL John 1:43-51. The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you come to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Nathanael, also known as Bartholomew, has the distinction of being the first recorded person in the Bible to confess belief in Jesus as the Son of God and Saviour.

When Nathanael accepted Jesus' call, he became his disciple.

He was a witness to the resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus and became a missionary, spreading the gospel.

Philip invited Nathanael to meet Jesus with the words "Come and See".

Who first invited you to 'Come and See' Jesus?

Perhaps, as a short prayer, you are able to give thanks to Jesus for the people who first called you to meet him.



Since last week we have received new guidance from The Church of England stating that "Singing is only permitted where it is essential to an act of worship."

Unfortunately for us this means our choir are unable to sing but, don't worry, we still have Jack our DOM, who will play for us every Sunday. Words to the hymns will be on our Facebook page and website so you can sing along at home.

Nathanael

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ISRAEL
NATHANAEL
COME AND SEE
BETHSAIDA
PHILIP
NAZARETH
TREE
ANGELS
PROPHETS
DESCENDING
FIG
ASCENDING
MOSES
RABBI
BELIEVE
TOLD

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1832494/>



Prayer in time of Covid Crisis

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Please pray this week for:

David F, David H, Linda, Kay, Jean and all those celebrating their birthday this week.

Please also pray for: Josephine Akrofi's family as they prepare for Josephine's funeral.

(If you would like to send the family a card please send it to the church and we will pass it on.)

All those living on Cotton Hill.

TO HELP YOU PRAY:

Daily Hope Prayer Line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up by the Church of England, particularly with those in mind who are unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions and to provide comfort and spiritual nourishment to those who feel isolated at the moment.

Joe Biden will officially become the President of the United States of America at noon on 20/01/21. He needs all our prayers as he undertakes this most difficult role of any person at this time.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring love. Where there is offence, let me bring pardon. Where there is discord, let me bring union. Where there is error, let me bring truth. Where there is doubt, let me bring faith. Where there is despair, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, let me bring your light. Where there is sadness, let me bring joy. O Master, let me not seek as much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that one receives, it is in self-forgetting that one finds, it is in pardoning that one is pardoned, it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.